

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING 2/2/2022

Meeting opened via Zoom at 9am.

Present- Sean Parr, Chairman; Kim Drohan, SSSII; Leon Drysdale; Mary Lynn Edwards; Pat Kalik; Kathy Ferguson, HR City of Manchester; and Terry Gesel

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mary Lynn Edwards, seconded by Pat Kalik

There were no public comments.

I. AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities- updates: Sean Parr, Chair Committee responses have been drafted. A letter of commitment is needed from Mayor Craig. Application will be submitted. The committee will focus on 5 of the domains for the Age Friendly Communities project relating to the social connectivity. All Commissioners will be added to the email chain just to stay in touch with the committee as they develop the Age Friendly project.

II. RESOURCE BOOKLET- Updates are complete. Sean and Kim have compiled the additions and corrections to the Resource Booklet for the William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center. Kim will set up and be updating the Resource booklet.

III. FOLLOW UP On Ideas and the Commission's contributions for future projects for Senior Services in the City of Manchester.

Terry mentioned possibly having outdoor greenhouse or gardening space at some of the schools or other possible locations within the city, to have Senior volunteers, that would like to sign up, work with students in an outdoor activity of planting vegetables and flowers and taking care of them, promoting an outdoor learning experience for students of raising food, etc. This would allow for a mentoring activity for seniors, pairing them with students or an entire classroom, where they would work together with the students, in a supervised setting, providing a learning experience while sharing the seniors experiences with the students. The outdoor garden space might be something that could be available for Seniors on going.

Terry mentioned another program that is used in some schools which is a friends program, [friendsprogram.org](https://www.friendsprogram.org) , where they might be paired with a class to help with reading to students or helping in a supervised, structured setting. It could be a win-win for students and seniors at this time of shortages and isolation.

Leon shared that the Friends of the Cashin Center might be able to help with providing some of the seeds, plants, materials, etc. for a project.

An idea was brought up about a phone tree where members of the Cashin Center could reach out to other members, with their permission, to touch basis and help with isolation issues.

We had discussions on some of these potential projects for the future. We could set up a table with the Commissioners in the Spring to talk with members of the Cashin Center, before or after activities, to see what some needs might be or what they would like to see in the city. Maybe set up a table on a Wednesday in the Spring after one of our meetings.

Kathy mentioned that maybe submitting an article for the Manchester Ink Link and provide a survey. A lot of Seniors might complete a 3 minute survey. This could be put on the Ink link or on the Seniors Department website.

Sean mention that he has looked at some of the other towns Senior Services departments and mentioned some items that might be of interest: fuel assistance, tax preparation, “Are you missing money?”, etc.

Leon mentioned possibly adding a member’s monthly birthday list at the Cashin Center.

Our next Sr. Services commission meeting is MARCH 2, 2022 at 9 am. We will have another Zoom meeting at this time. We ended our meeting at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Gesel, Sr. Services Commission recording Secretary

